

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00785 240022Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /091 W  
-----034133 240029Z /66

R 210810Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9435  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0785

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, VM, CH, US  
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE FOREIGN RELATIONS

1. VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR DINH NHO LIEM SOUGHT ME OUT AT A  
DIPLOMATIC CORPS LUNCH JULY 20 MAKING AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO BE  
FRIENDLY AND AFFABLE. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THE VIETNAMESE  
VISIT TO HAWAII HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL. HE SAID THAT HE WAS  
PERSONALLY VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF NORMALIZATION AND COMMENTED THAT  
"WITH GOODWILL, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ADVANCE STEP BY STEP  
TOWARD OUR GOAL OF NORMALIZATION." HE REPEATED HIS "STEP BY STEP"  
PHRASE TO THOSE AROUND US.

2. I ASKED LIEM ABOUT PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO ASIAN COUNTRIES.  
LIEM SAID THAT THE TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT THE SRV WISHED TO  
LIVE IN PEACE AND HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ITS ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT, LIEM  
SAID THAT IT WAS ALL DUE TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN CAMBODIA. HE  
SAID THAT THERE WAS MUCH INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO THE POL POT-ENG  
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SARY REGIME. BEFORE THE CURRENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER,  
THERE HAD BEEN SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE IN CAMBODIA. NOW THERE WERE  
FIVE MILLION. TWO MILLION HAD BEEN KILLED. LIEM SAID THAT VIET  
NAM WAS NOT ATTACKING CAMBODIA BUT WAS ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT  
ITSELF.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE SINO-VIETNAMESE DISPUTE, LIEM SAID THAT

IT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE CHINESE. THE SRV WANTED TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS AND WAS PREPARED TO TALK.

5. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION ON JULY 20, PAN AM VICE PRESIDENT JOHN KRIMSKY SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT CIVIL AVIATION DISCUSSIONS IN HANOI (VIENTIANE 784), IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WERE EAGERLY AWAITING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE KENNEDY STAFFDEL HEADED BY MR. TINKER. KRIMSKY SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE VISIT TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO US-SRV RELATIONS.

6. CONCERNING THE MILITARY SITUATION IN VIET NAM, KRIMSKY TOLD US THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD CONFIRMED THAT THEY NOW HAD SIX DIVISIONS DEPLOYED ALONG THE CHINESE BORDER. KRIMSKY ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE HIS LAST VISIT TO HANOI IN APRIL, A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE COMPLEX HAD BEEN SET UP NEAR THE ROAD BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND HANOI. KRIMSKY HAS ALSO OBSERVED A NUMBER OF MISSILES BEING TRANSPORTED ALONG THE ROAD AND TYING UP TRAFFIC.  
ROBERTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00785  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014